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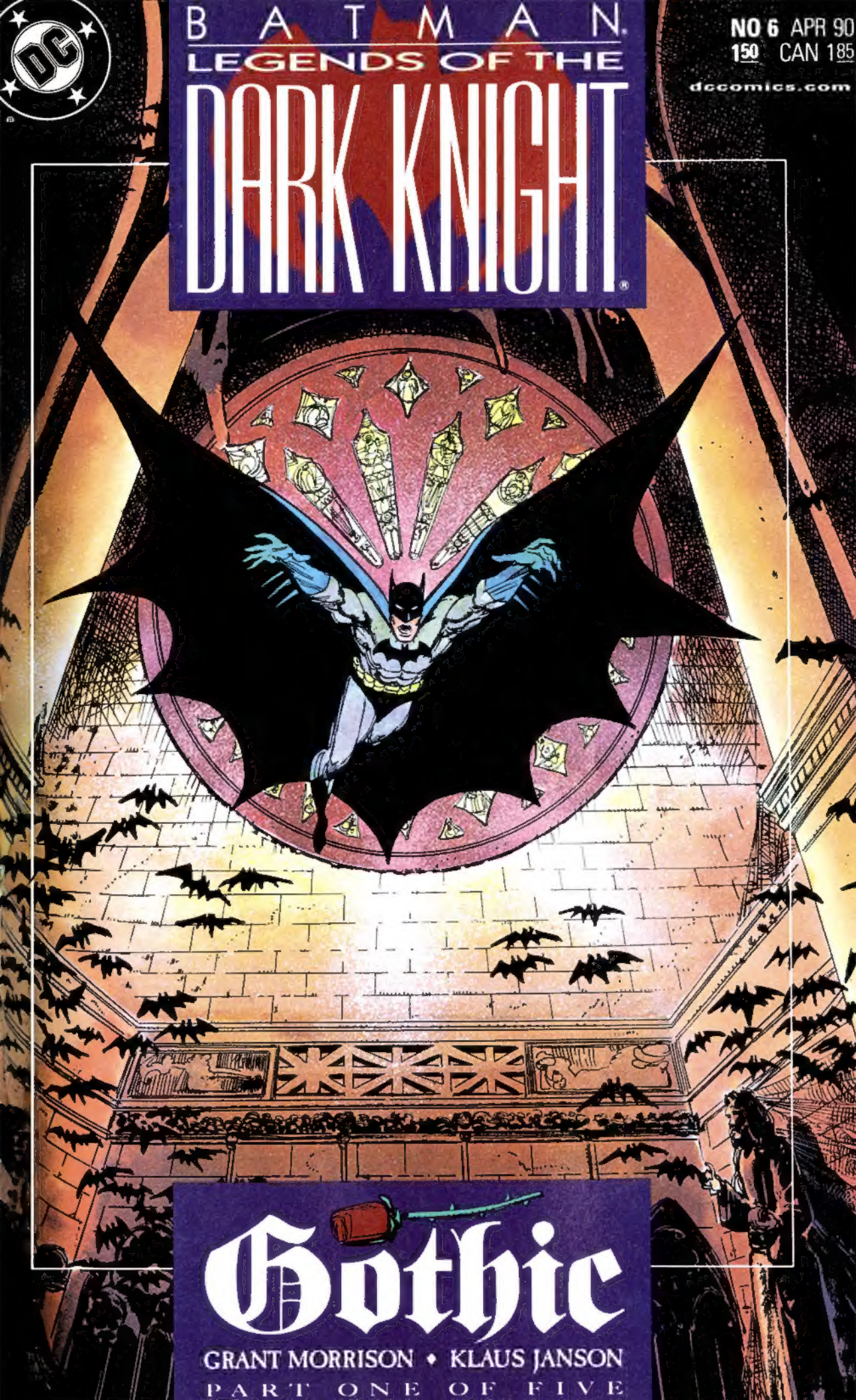
BATMAN
LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT®



Gothic

GRANT MORRISON • KLAUS JANSON

PART ONE OF FIVE

Gothic
a romance

By Grant Morrison and Klaus Janson

IN FIVE VOLUMES

"But that I am forbid to tell
the secrets of my prison house
I could a tale unfold whose lightest word
would harrow up thy soul . . . "
HAMLET

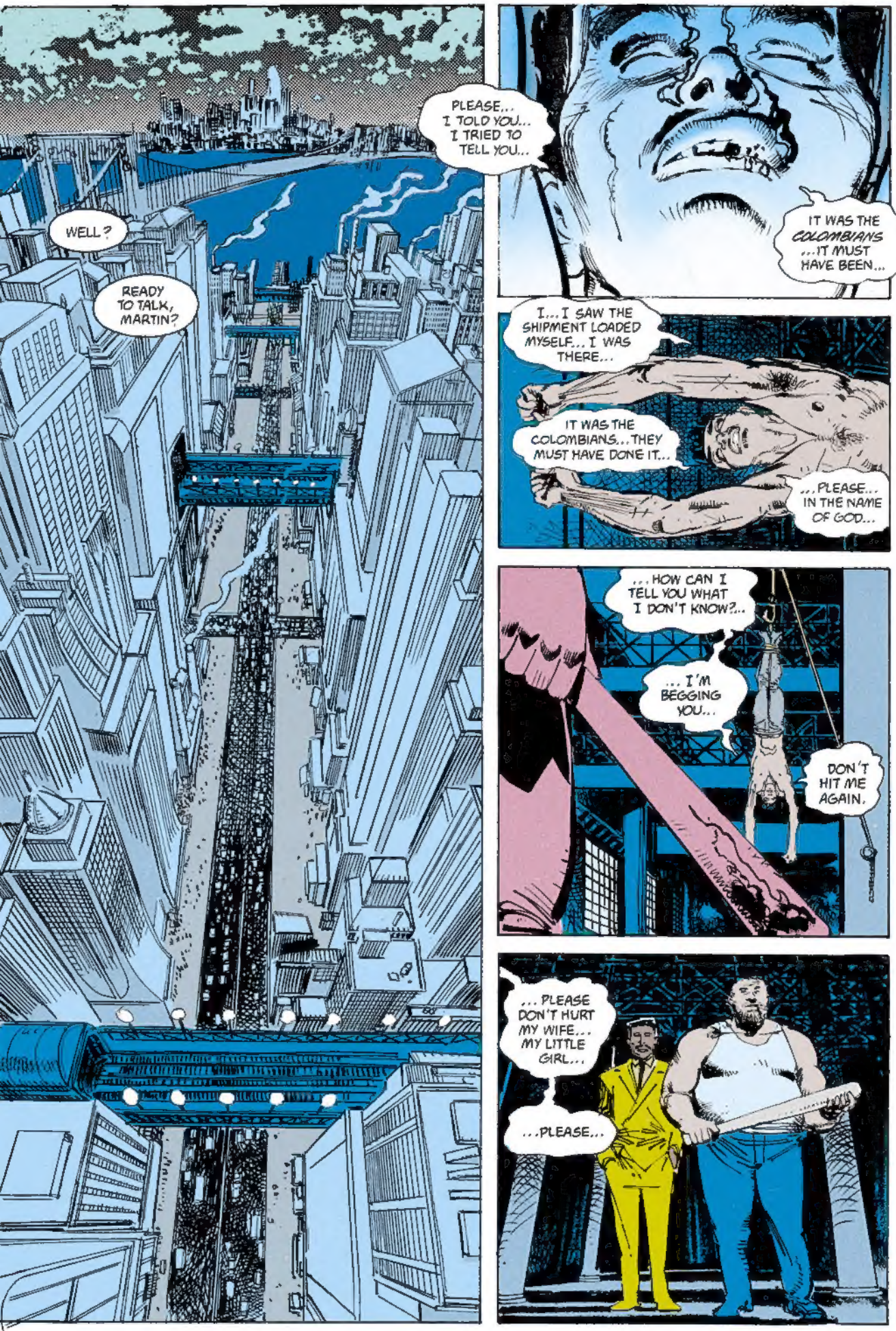
volume one

Man Without a Shadow

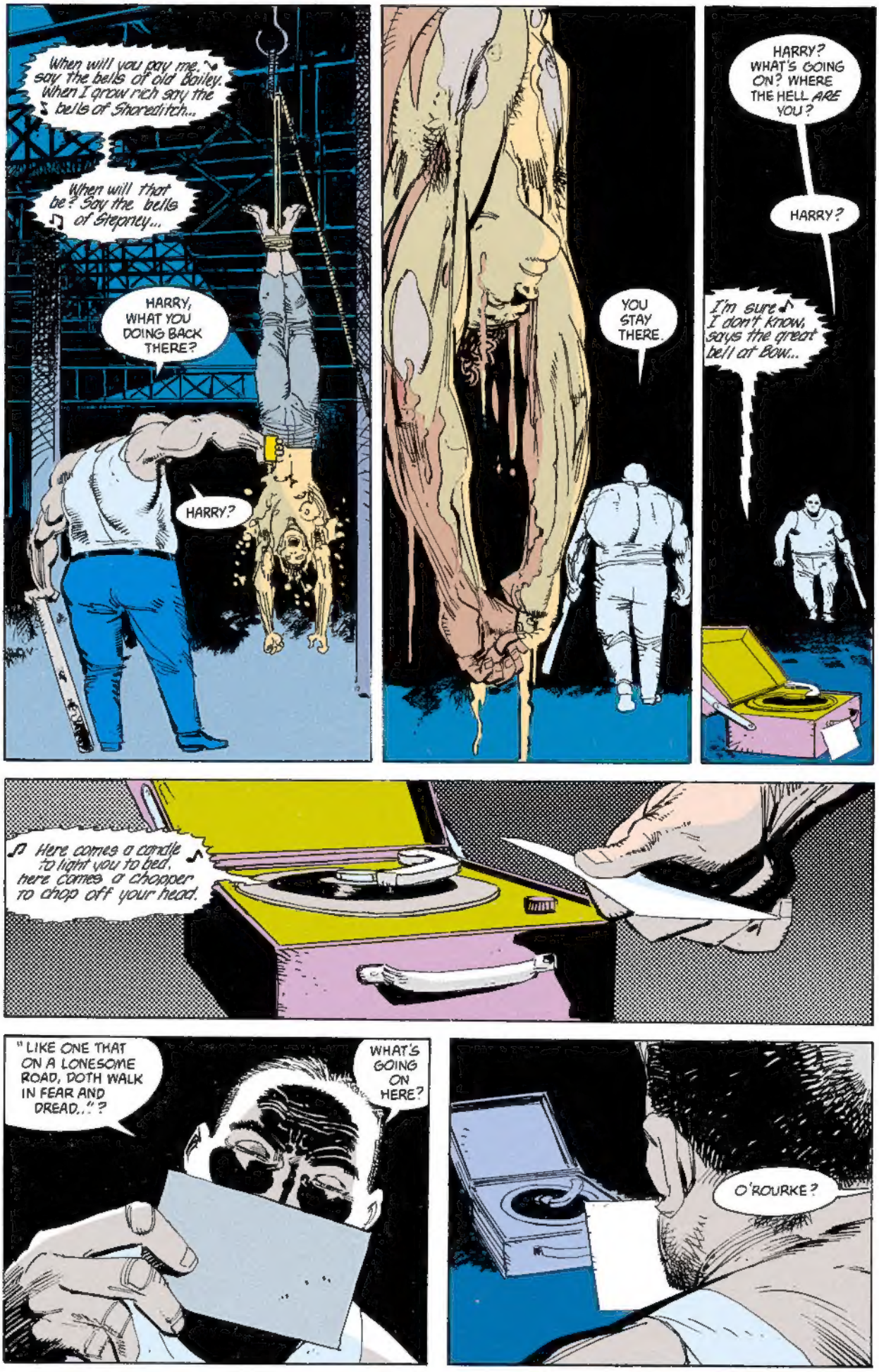
Colored by Steve Buccellato
Lettered by John Costanza

Andrew Helfer, Editor
Kevin Dooley, Ass't. Editor

CONVERSION BY WILDSTORM


WELL?
READY TO TALK, MARTIN?
PLEASE... I TOLD YOU... I TRIED TO TELL YOU...
IT WAS THE COLOMBIANS ...IT MUST HAVE BEEN...
I... I SAW THE SHIPMENT LOADED MYSELF... I WAS THERE...
IT WAS THE COLOMBIANS... THEY MUST HAVE DONE IT...
...PLEASE... IN THE NAME OF GOD...
...HOW CAN I TELL YOU WHAT I DON'T KNOW?...
... I'M BEGGING YOU...
DON'T HIT ME AGAIN.
... PLEASE DON'T HURT MY WIFE... MY LITTLE GIRL...
...PLEASE...

FORGET THEM. YOUR WIFE AND KID ARE WORKING FOR US NOW.
MOVIE STARS. YOU UNDERSTAND?
IT'S TIME YOU THOUGHT ABOUT YOURSELF. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY CALL ME? THE BAT-MAN, IS WHAT. PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?
NOW. I'LL ASK AGAIN AND I'LL ASK NICELY THIS TIME...
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SHIPMENT?
OKAY. THE CRIPPLE STILL WON'T TALK.
AAAHH
HARRY, THE LIGHTER FUEL. PLEASE.
AND MAYBE YOU COULD GET THE BLOWLAMP READY FOR...
Oranges and lemons, say the bells of St. Clements...
WHAT THE HELL'S THAT?
You owe me five farthings, say the bells of St. Martins...
CHECK IT OUT.
I'LL FINISH UP HERE.

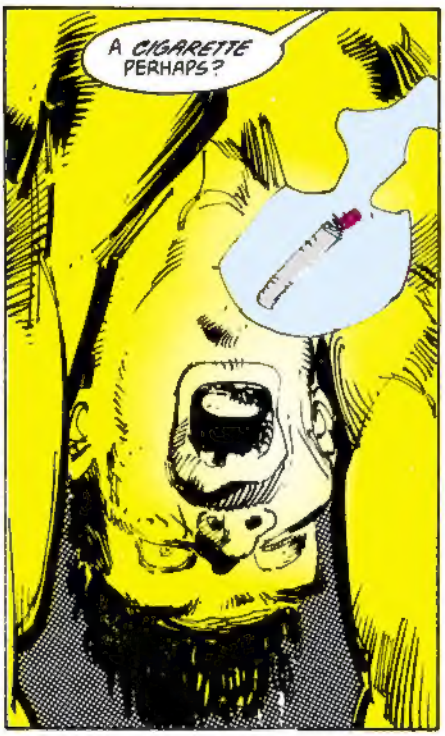

When will you pay me, say the bells of old Bailey. When I grow rich say the bells of Shoreditch...
When will that be? Say the bells of Stepney...
HARRY, WHAT YOU DOING BACK THERE?
HARRY?
YOU STAY THERE.
HARRY? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU?
HARRY?
I'm sure I don't know, says the great bell at Bow...
Here comes a candle to light you to bed, here comes a chopper to chop off your head.
"LIKE ONE THAT ON A LONESOME ROAD, DOTH WALK IN FEAR AND DREAD..."?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
O'ROURKE?

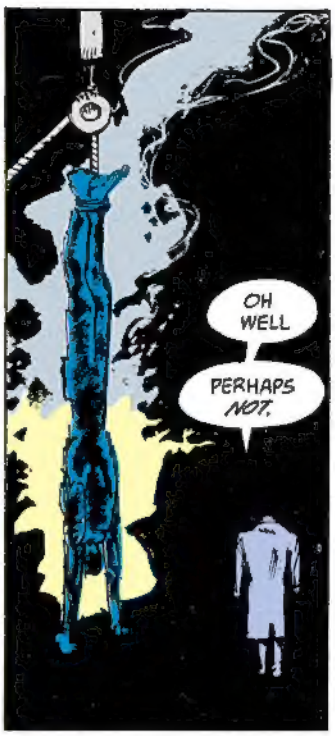
HELLO O'ROURKE.
REMEMBER ME?

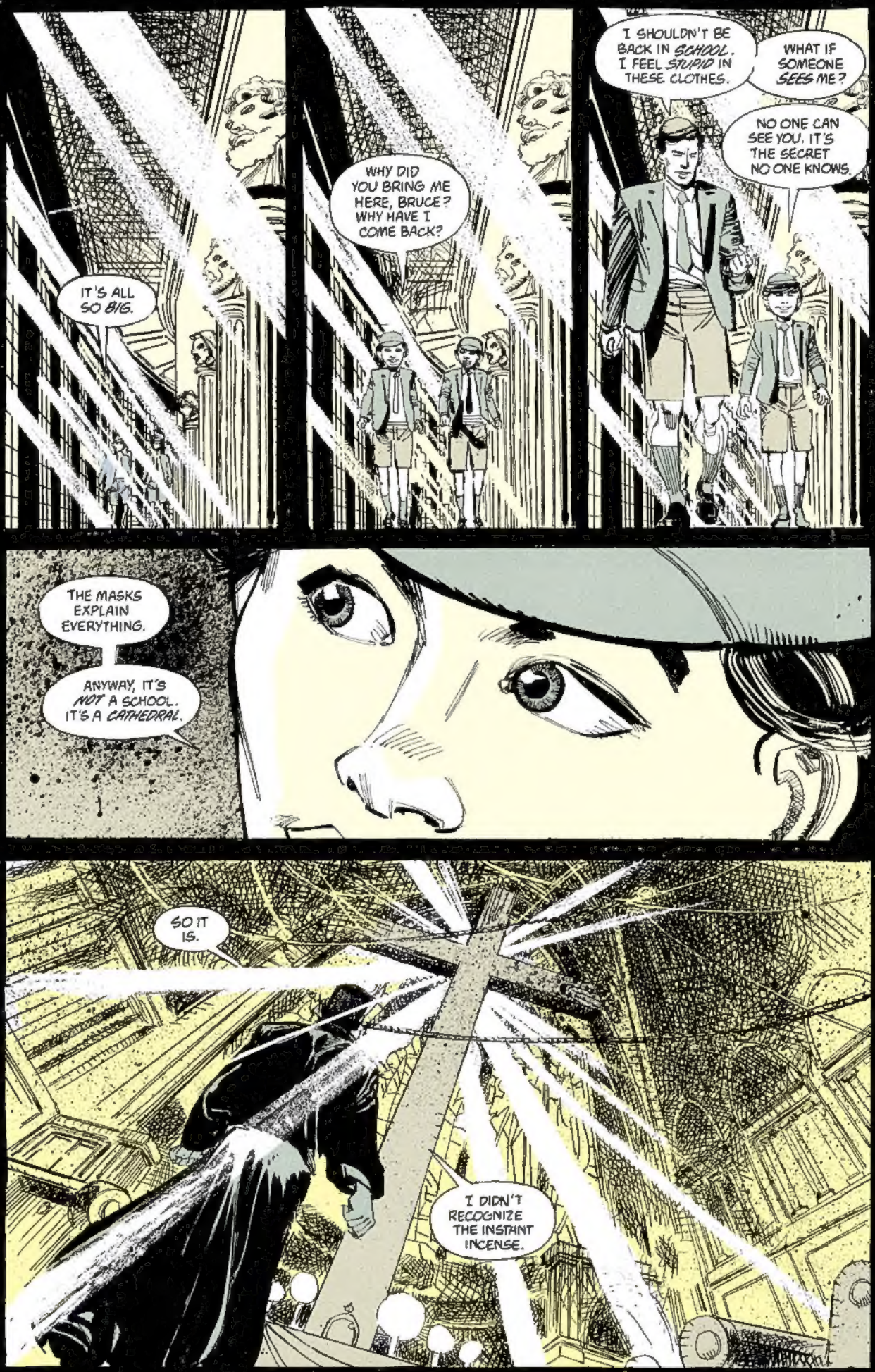
EE!
EEEEEEEEE

...HELP ME.
HELP ME PLEASE.

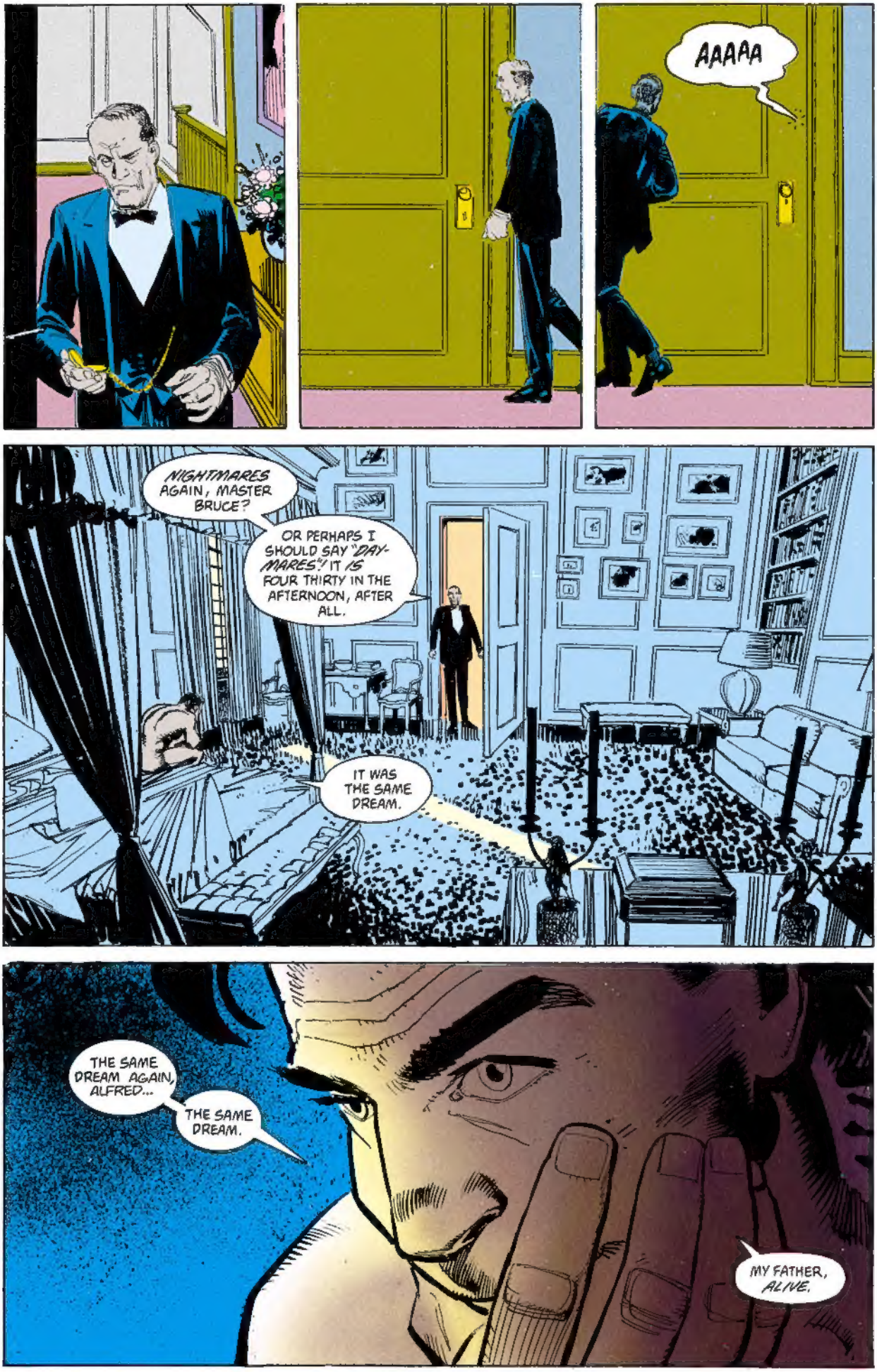
HELP ME.
HELP YOU? AND HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?

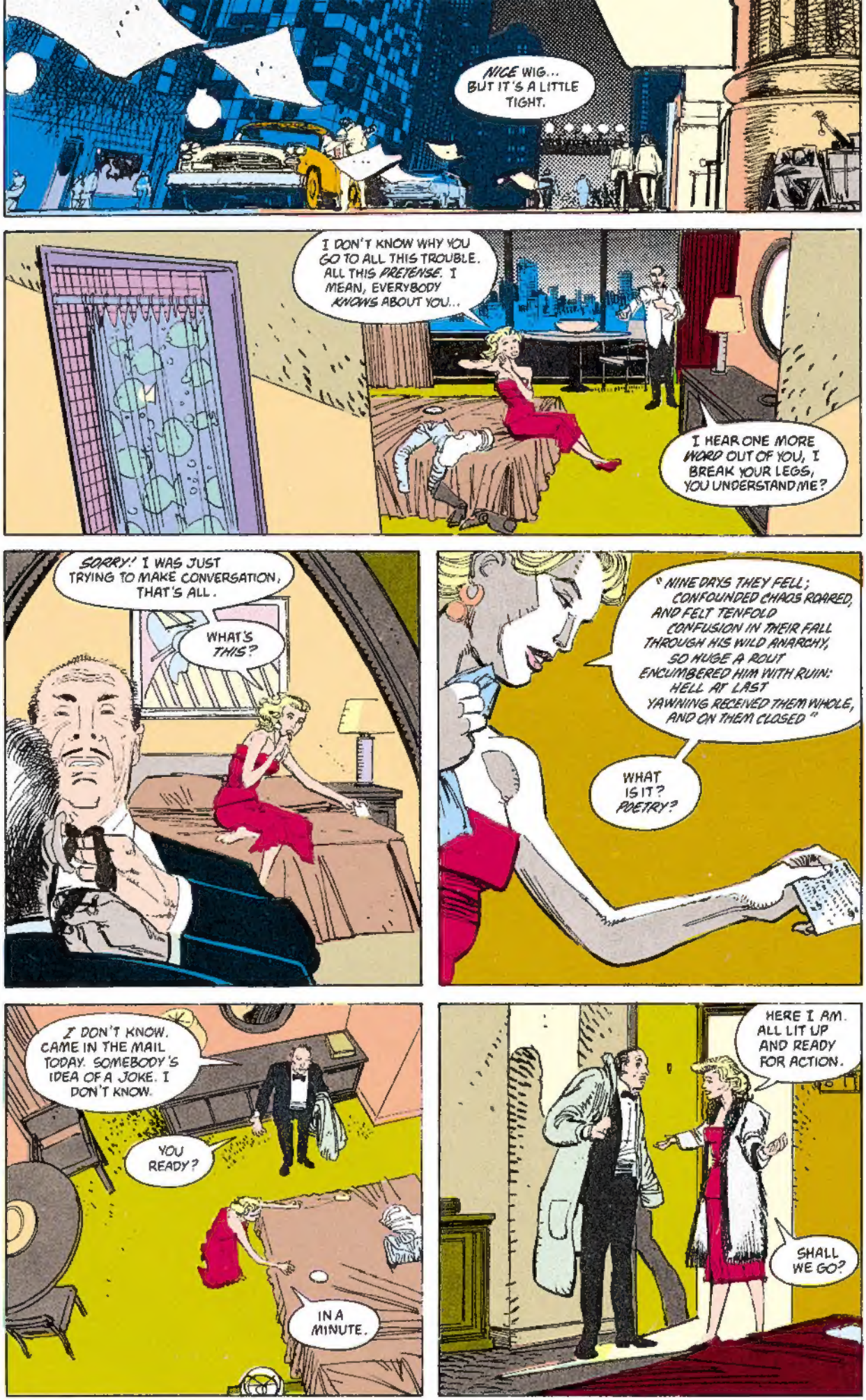

A CIGARETTE PERHAPS?

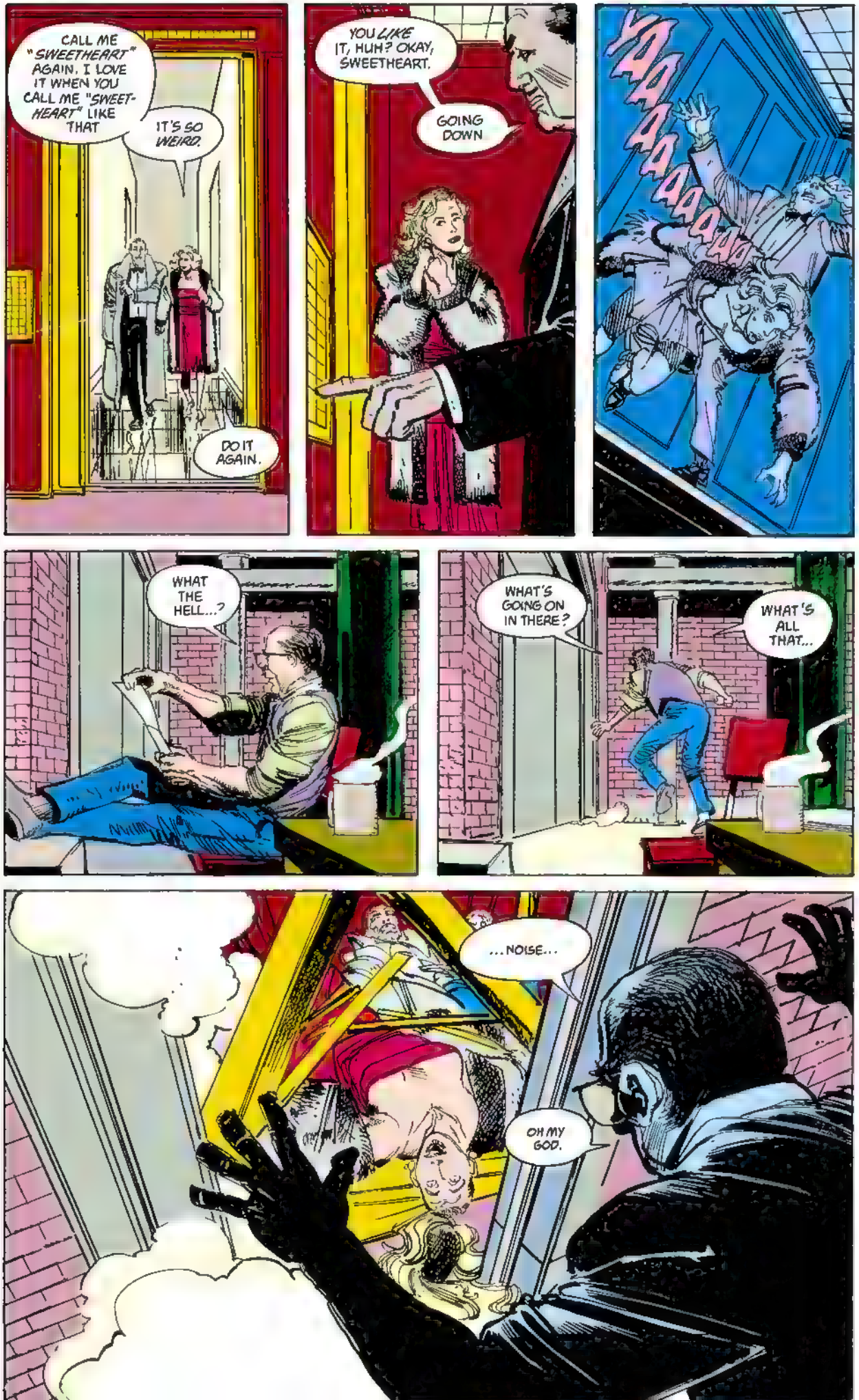

OH WELL
PERHAPS NOT.

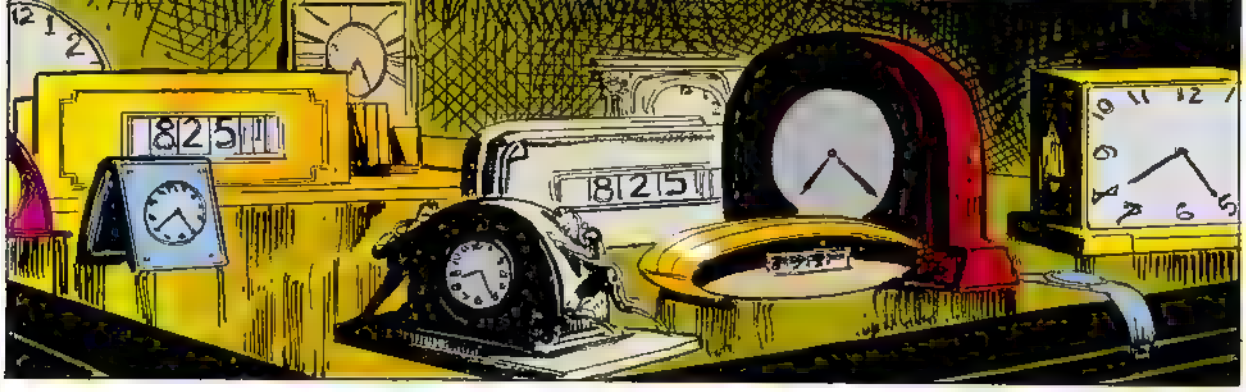

IT'S ALL SO BIG.
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE, BRUCE? WHY HAVE I COME BACK?
I SHOULDN'T BE BACK IN SCHOOL. I FEEL STUPID IN THESE CLOTHES.
WHAT IF SOMEONE SEES ME?
NO ONE CAN SEE YOU. IT'S THE SECRET NO ONE KNOWS.
THE MASKS EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.
ANYWAY, IT'S NOT A SCHOOL. IT'S A CATHEDRAL.
SO IT IS.
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE INSTANT INCENSE.

SO YOU'RE A TEACHER, ARE YOU NOW, WAYNE?
YES SIR, MR. CRANE.
I'M A MASTER NOW, YES.
I CAN TELL BY YOUR CLOAK.
YOUR FATHER WILL BE PLEASED.
MY FATHER?
FATHER?
OH FATHER, THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE DEAD!
FATHER?
FATHER, I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH.
SPEAK TO ME. PLEASE. PLEASE JUST SAY...


AAAAA
NIGHTMARES AGAIN, MASTER BRUCE?
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY "DAY-MARES"! IT IS FOUR THIRTY IN THE AFTERNOON, AFTER ALL.
IT WAS THE SAME DREAM.
THE SAME DREAM AGAIN, ALFRED...
THE SAME DREAM.
MY FATHER, ALIVE.


NICE WIG... BUT IT'S A LITTLE TIGHT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE. ALL THIS PRETENSE. I MEAN, EVERYBODY KNOWS ABOUT YOU...
I HEAR ONE MORE WORD OUT OF YOU, I BREAK YOUR LEGS, YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
SORRY! I WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE CONVERSATION, THAT'S ALL.
WHAT'S THIS?
" NINE DAYS THEY FELL; CONFOUNDED CHAOS ROARED, AND FELT TENFOLD CONFUSION IN THEIR FALL THROUGH HIS WILD ANARCHY, SO HUGE A ROUT ENCUMBERED HIM WITH RUIN: HELL AT LAST YAWNING RECEIVED THEM WHOLE, AND ON THEM CLOSED "
WHAT IS IT? POETRY?
I DON'T KNOW. CAME IN THE MAIL TODAY. SOMEBODY'S IDEA OF A JOKE. I DON'T KNOW.
YOU READY?
IN A MINUTE.
HERE I AM. ALL LIT UP AND READY FOR ACTION.
SHALL WE GO?


CALL ME "SWEETHEART" AGAIN. I LOVE IT WHEN YOU CALL ME "SWEETHEART" LIKE THAT
IT'S SO WEIRD.
DO IT AGAIN.
YOU LIKE IT, HUH? OKAY, SWEETHEART.
GOING DOWN
YAAAAAAAAA
WHAT THE HELL...?
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?
WHAT'S ALL THAT...
...NOISE...
OH MY GOD.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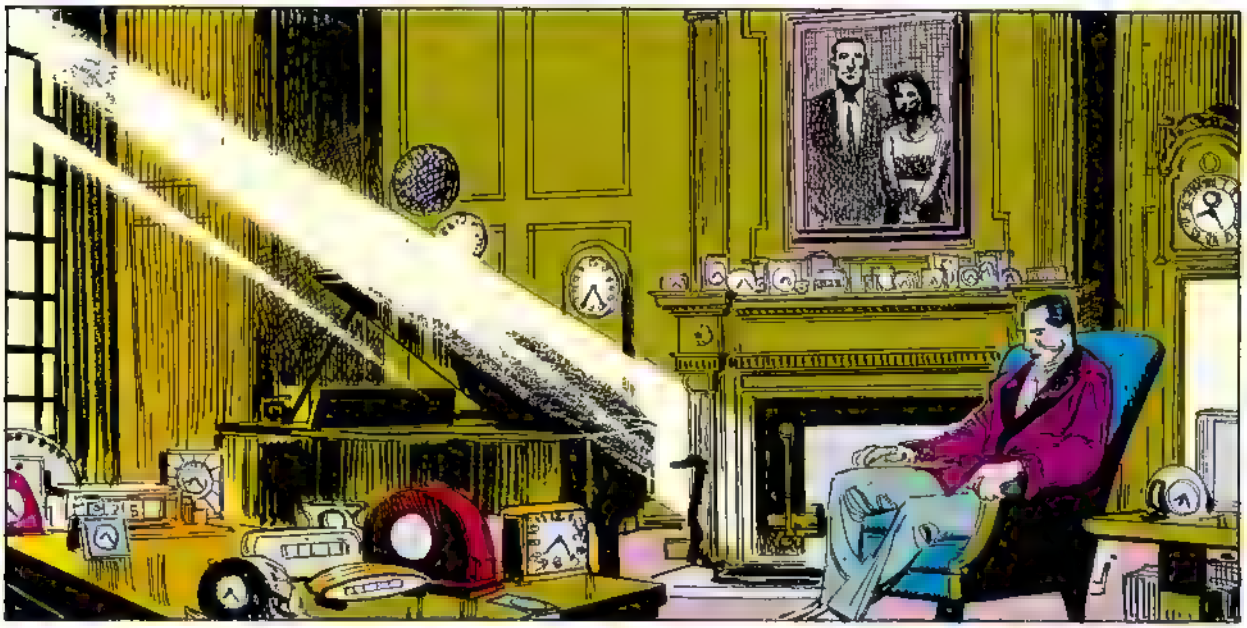
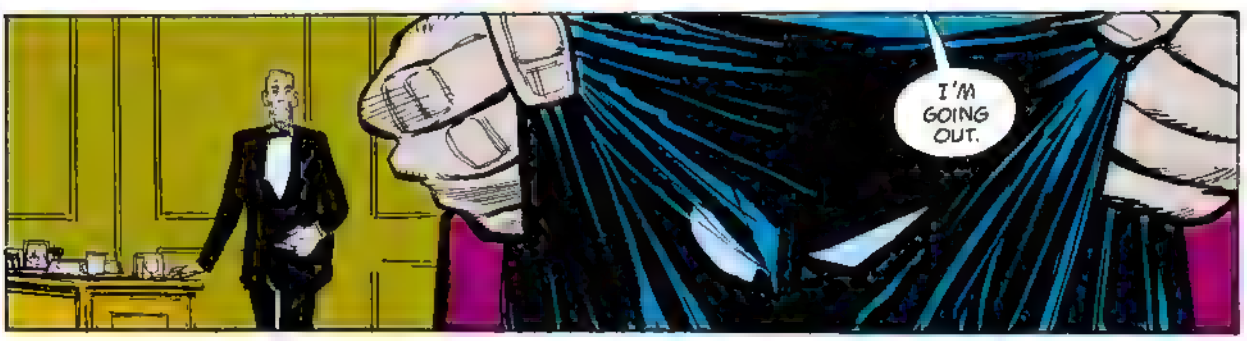
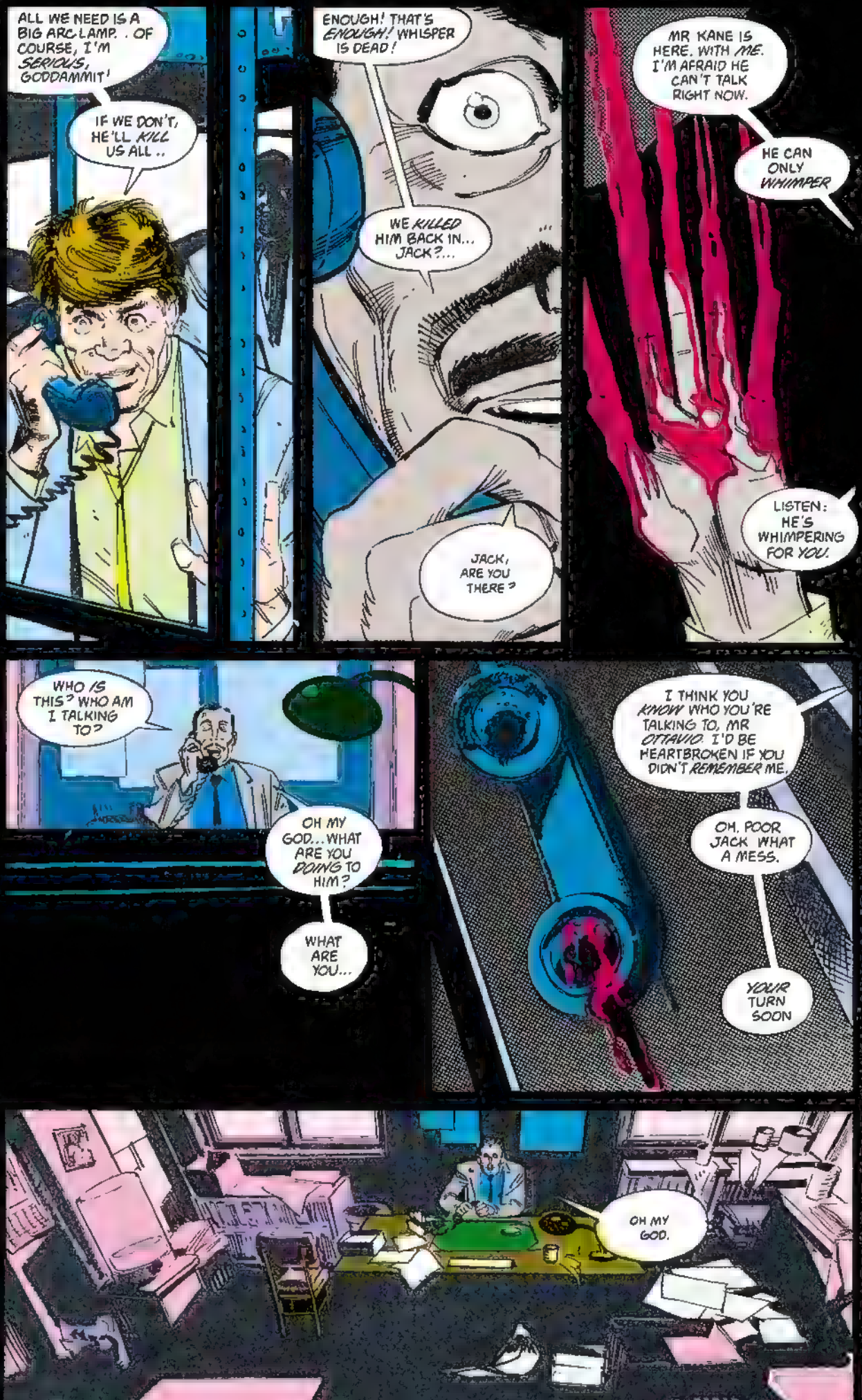


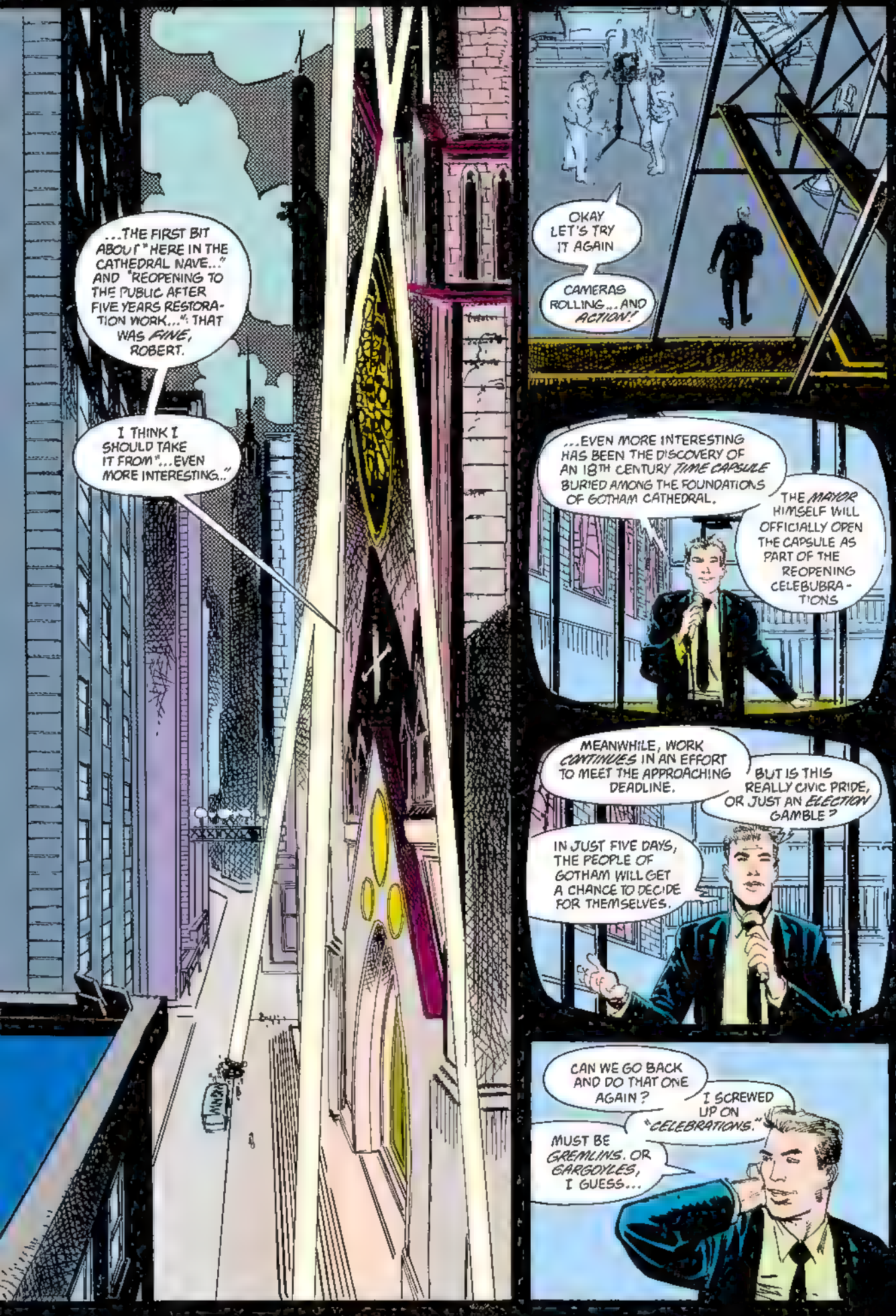
FORGIVE ME FOR ENTERING, MASTER BRUCE.
IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT EVEN *YOU* MIGHT REQUIRE SOMETHING TO *EAT*.

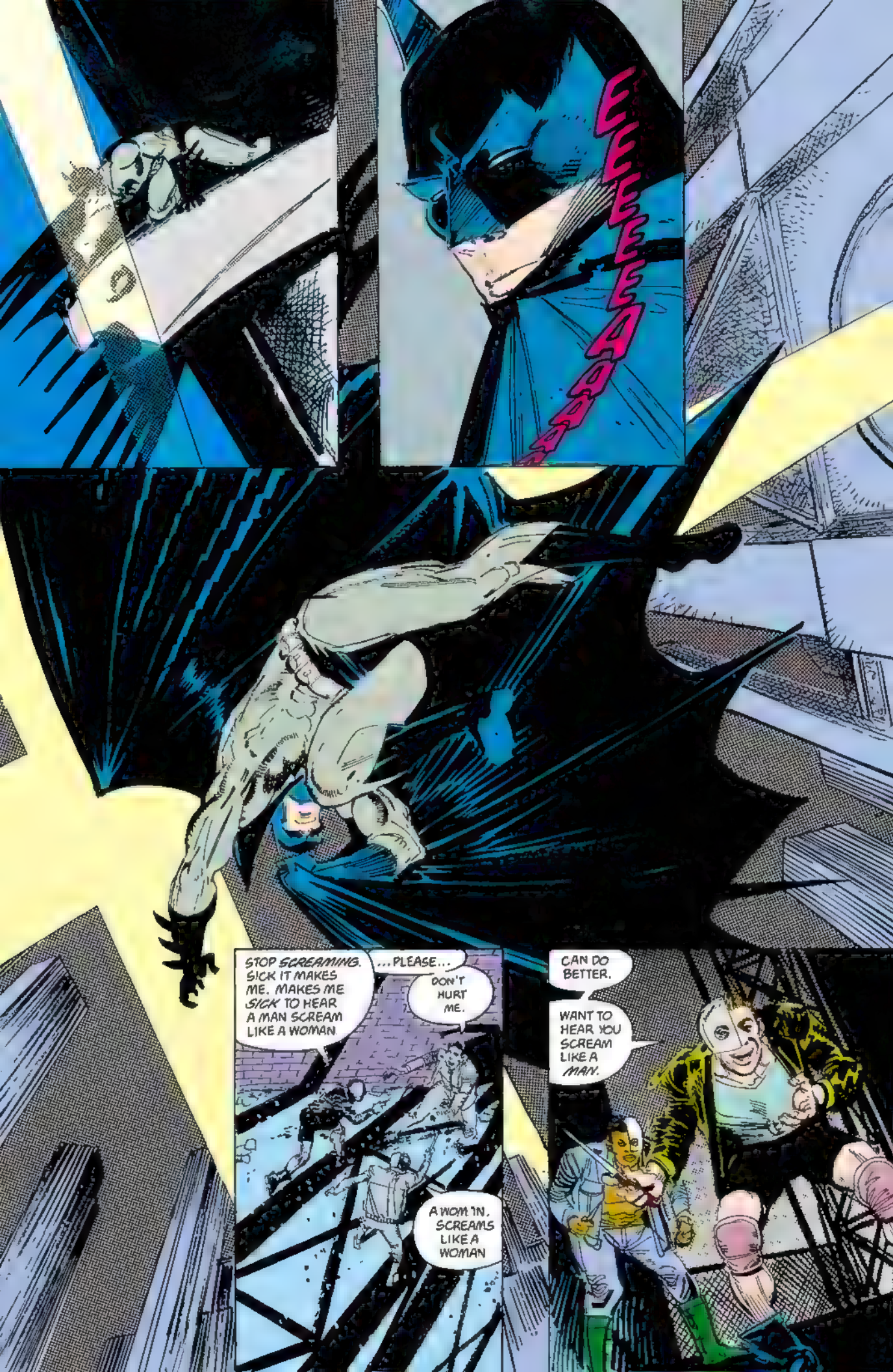
ALL THIS MORBID INTROSPECTION IN A ROOMFUL OF STOPPED CLOCKS MUST SURELY GIVE ONE A *RAMPAGING* APPETITE.
NO THANK YOU, ALFRED.
I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TONIGHT

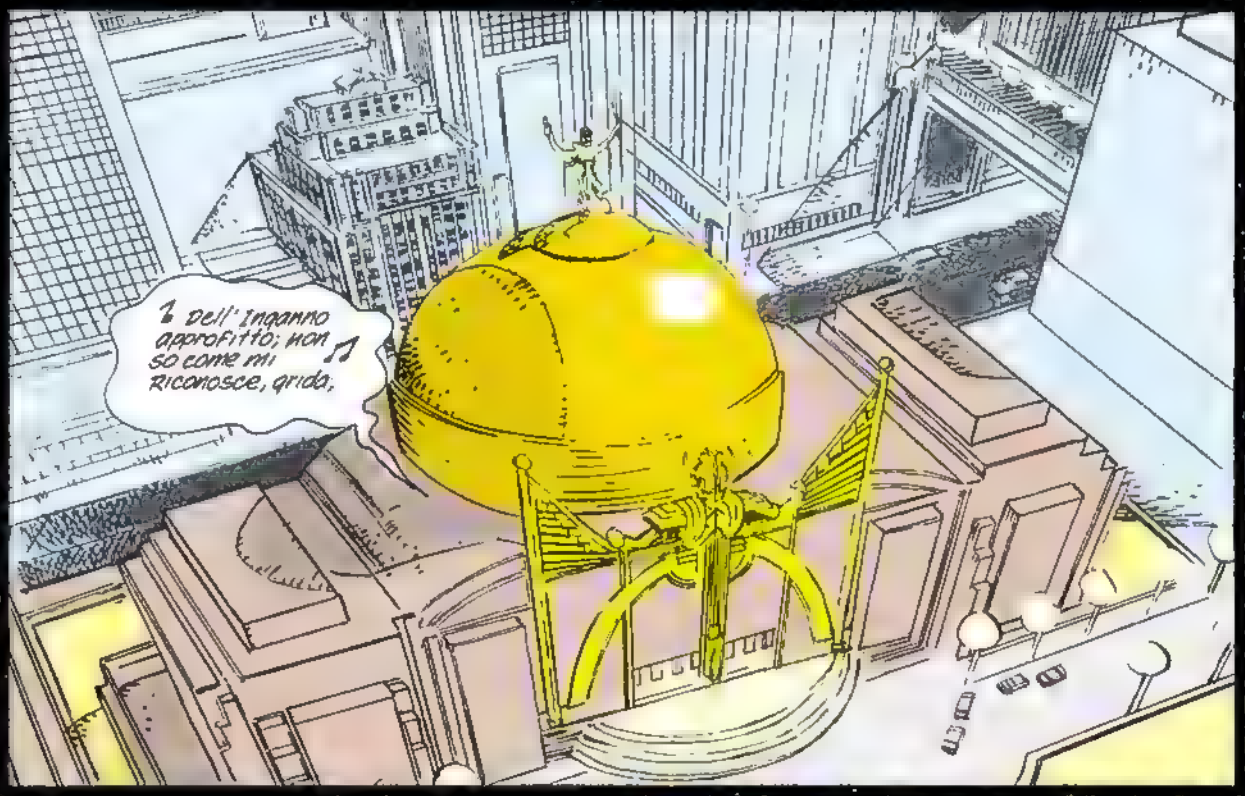

I'M GOING OUT.

. .WELL, HOW DO YOU THINK I FEEL? I MEAN, I HATED THE GUY, BUT NOBODY WANTED TO SEE HIM CRUSHED IN A FALLING ELEVATOR.
AND THE WAY HE WAS FOUND.. THERE GOES THE MACHO REPUTATION
GIRL
ALL I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT I SHOULDN T HAVE TO BE HERE, OKAY? I DON'T WANT TO SPEND TIME IN A SLEAZEPIT LIKE THIS.
I'M A LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMAN IF O'ROURKE HADN'T...
WHAT?
...
GAS
YOU HEARD ME. O'ROURKE AND MY BROTHER... THEY WERE KILLED BY THE SAME MAN...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S WHISPER. MR. WHISPER IS BACK
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING I'M LOSING MY TEMPER HERE.
WHAT?... LOOK, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL, BUT IF YOU THINK YOU CAN START A WAR IN GOTHAM, THEN..
... I... NOW LOOK, I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THIS...
JUST LISTEN, FOR GOD'S SAKE!... WHISPER IS BACK. HE WANTS REVENGE FOR WHAT WE DID... WHAT?...
LISTEN TO ME... NO, LISTEN! WE NEED HELP AND I'VE GOT AN IDEA...
HOW MANY OTHER GUYS HAVE NO SHADOW? IT'S HIM!
WE CALL WHO? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING HERE... YOU NEED HELP.. WE MAKE WHAT?..


ALL WE NEED IS A BIG ARC-LAMP. . OF COURSE, I'M SERIOUS, GODDAMMIT!
IF WE DON'T, HE'LL KILL US ALL ..
ENOUGH! THAT'S ENOUGH! WHISPER IS DEAD!
WE KILLED HIM BACK IN... JACK?...
JACK, ARE YOU THERE?
MR KANE IS HERE. WITH ME. I'M AFRAID HE CAN'T TALK RIGHT NOW.
HE CAN ONLY WHIMPER
LISTEN: HE'S WHIMPERING FOR YOU.
WHO IS THIS? WHO AM I TALKING TO?
OH MY GOD... WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU...
I THINK YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO, MR OTTAVIO. I'D BE HEARTBROKEN IF YOU DIDN'T REMEMBER ME.
OH, POOR JACK. WHAT A MESS.
YOUR TURN SOON
OH MY GOD.


...THE FIRST BIT ABOUT "HERE IN THE CATHEDRAL NAVE..." AND "REOPENING TO THE PUBLIC AFTER FIVE YEARS RESTORATION WORK...": THAT WAS FINE, ROBERT.
I THINK I SHOULD TAKE IT FROM "...EVEN MORE INTERESTING..."
OKAY LET'S TRY IT AGAIN
CAMERAS ROLLING... AND ACTION!
...EVEN MORE INTERESTING HAS BEEN THE DISCOVERY OF AN 18TH CENTURY TIME CAPSULE BURIED AMONG THE FOUNDATIONS OF GOTHAM CATHEDRAL.
THE MAYOR HIMSELF WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE CAPSULE AS PART OF THE REOPENING CELEBUBRATIONS
MEANWHILE, WORK CONTINUES IN AN EFFORT TO MEET THE APPROACHING DEADLINE.
BUT IS THIS REALLY CIVIC PRIDE, OR JUST AN ELECTION GAMBLE?
IN JUST FIVE DAYS, THE PEOPLE OF GOTHAM WILL GET A CHANCE TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES.
CAN WE GO BACK AND DO THAT ONE AGAIN?
I SCREWED UP ON "CELEBRATIONS."
MUST BE GREMLINS. OR GARGOYLES, I GUESS...

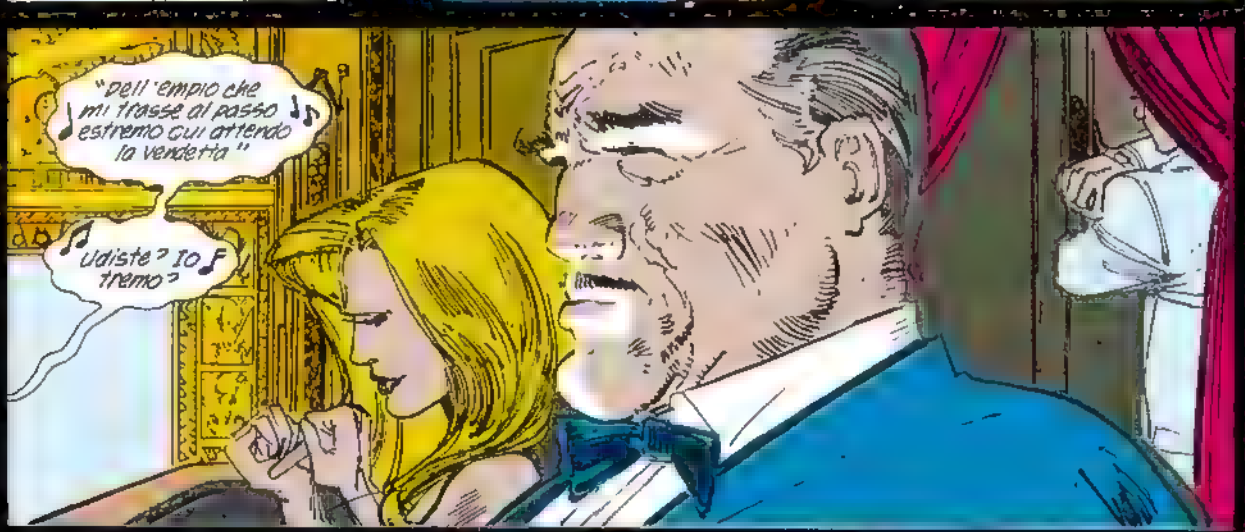

EEEEEEAAAA
STOP SCREAMING. SICK IT MAKES ME. MAKES ME SICK TO HEAR A MAN SCREAM LIKE A WOMAN.
...PLEASE...
DON'T HURT ME.
A WOMAN SCREAMS LIKE A WOMAN
CAN DO BETTER.
WANT TO HEAR YOU SCREAM LIKE A MAN.

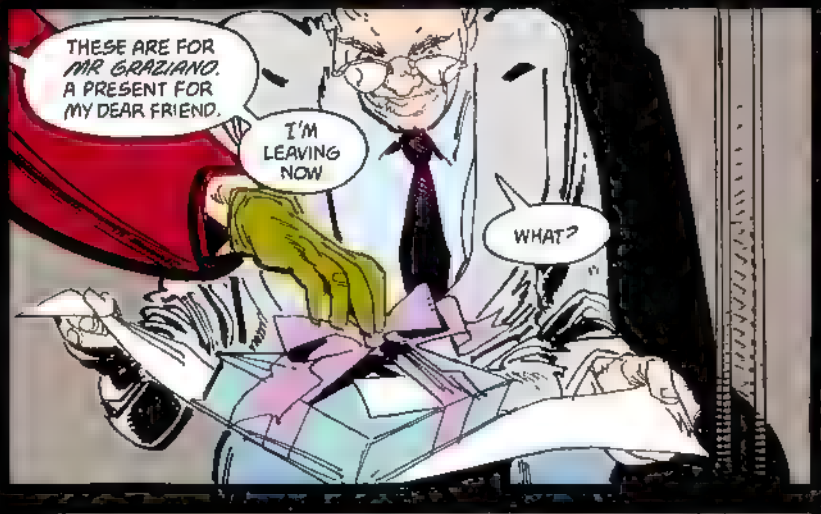

dell'Inganno approfitto; non so come mi riconosce, grida,

Sento gente, a fuggire mi metto, e pronto pronto per quel muretto in questo loco io monto

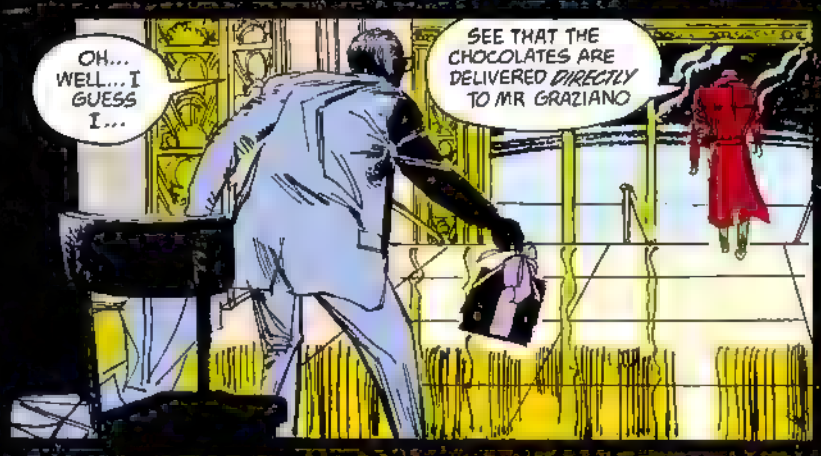
Di rider finirai pria dell'Aurora!
Chi ti parlatto?
Ah, Qualche anima sara dell'altro mondo, che vi conosce a fondo.

Sara Qualcun di Fuori che si burla di noi!
Ehi, del commendatore non e questa la statua? leggi un poco quella inscrizion.

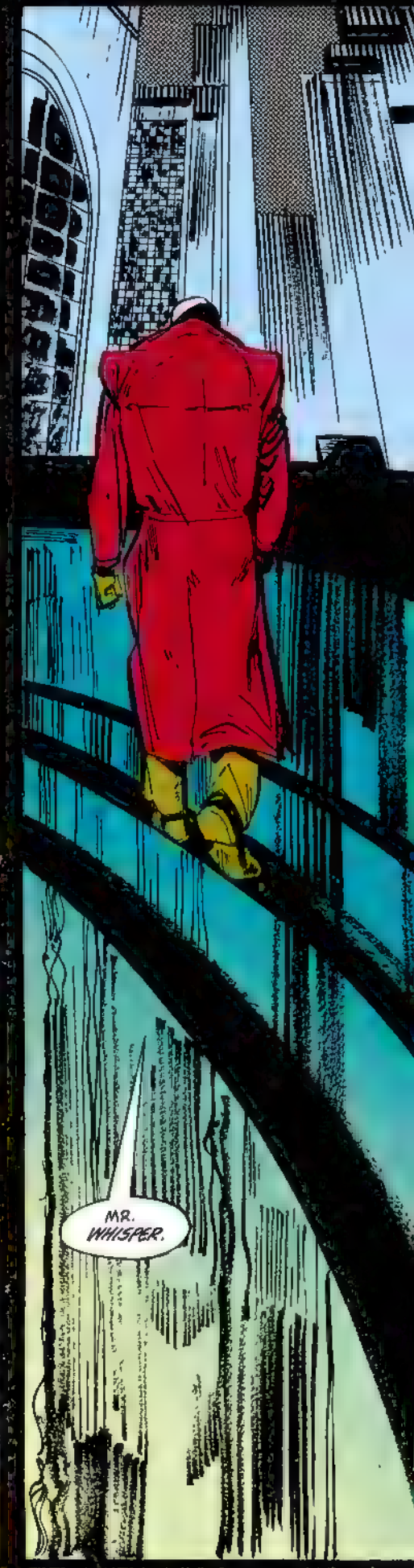

"Dell'empio che mi trasse al passo estremo cui attendo la vendetta"
Udiste? Io tremo?


THESE ARE FOR MR GRAZIANO. A PRESENT FOR MY DEAR FRIEND.
I'M LEAVING NOW
WHAT?

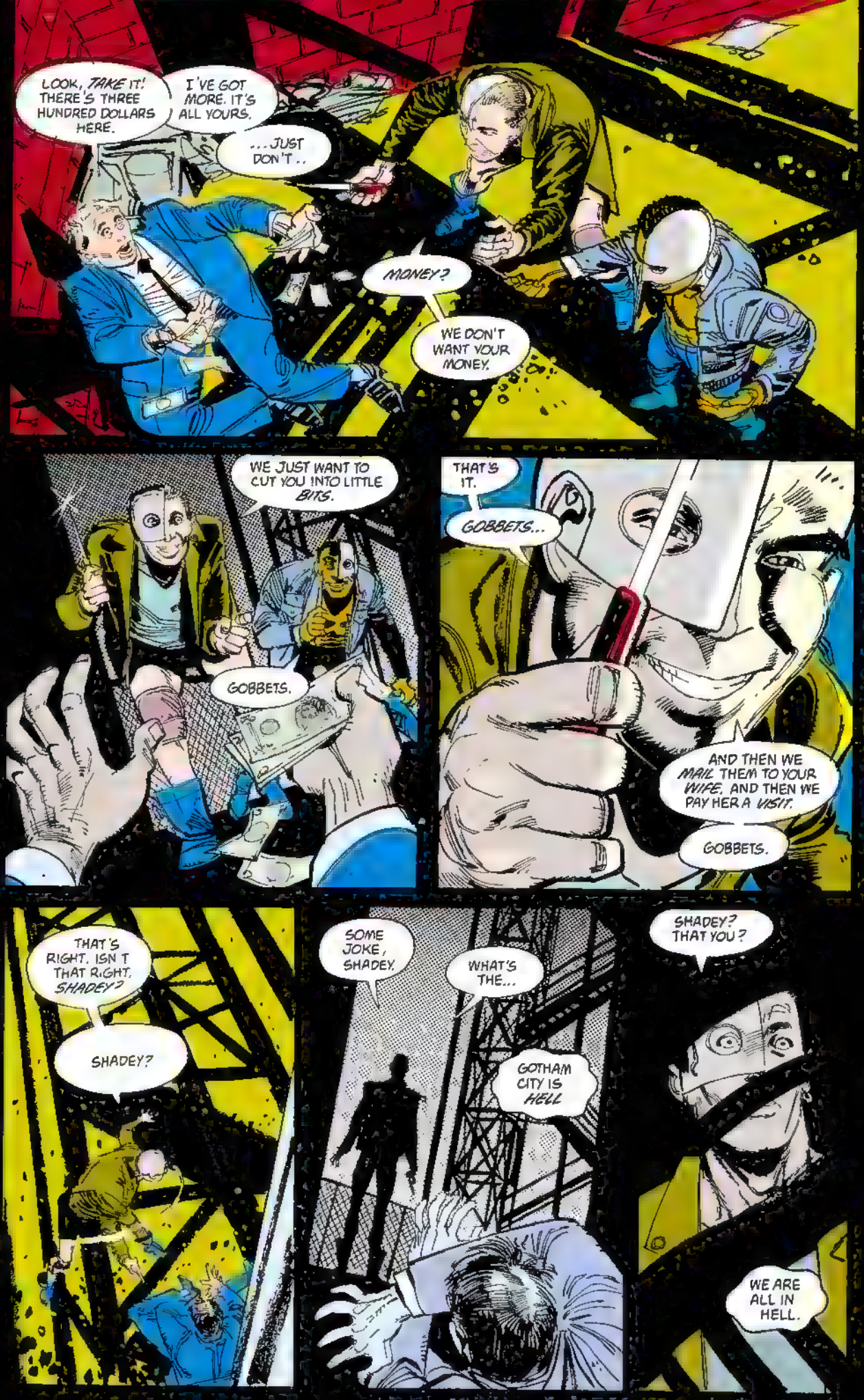
OH, I SEE
DIDN'T YOU ENJOY THE PERFORMANCE, SIR?
ON THE CONTRARY: "DON GIOVANNI" IS ONE OF MY FAVORITES.
IT'S JUST THE ENDING, YOU SEE. I DON'T LIKE THE ENDING


OH... WELL... I GUESS I...
SEE THAT THE CHOCOLATES ARE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO MR GRAZIANO

I'LL DO THAT.
WHISPER.
STRAIGHT AWAY, MR.... AH...


MR. WHISPER.

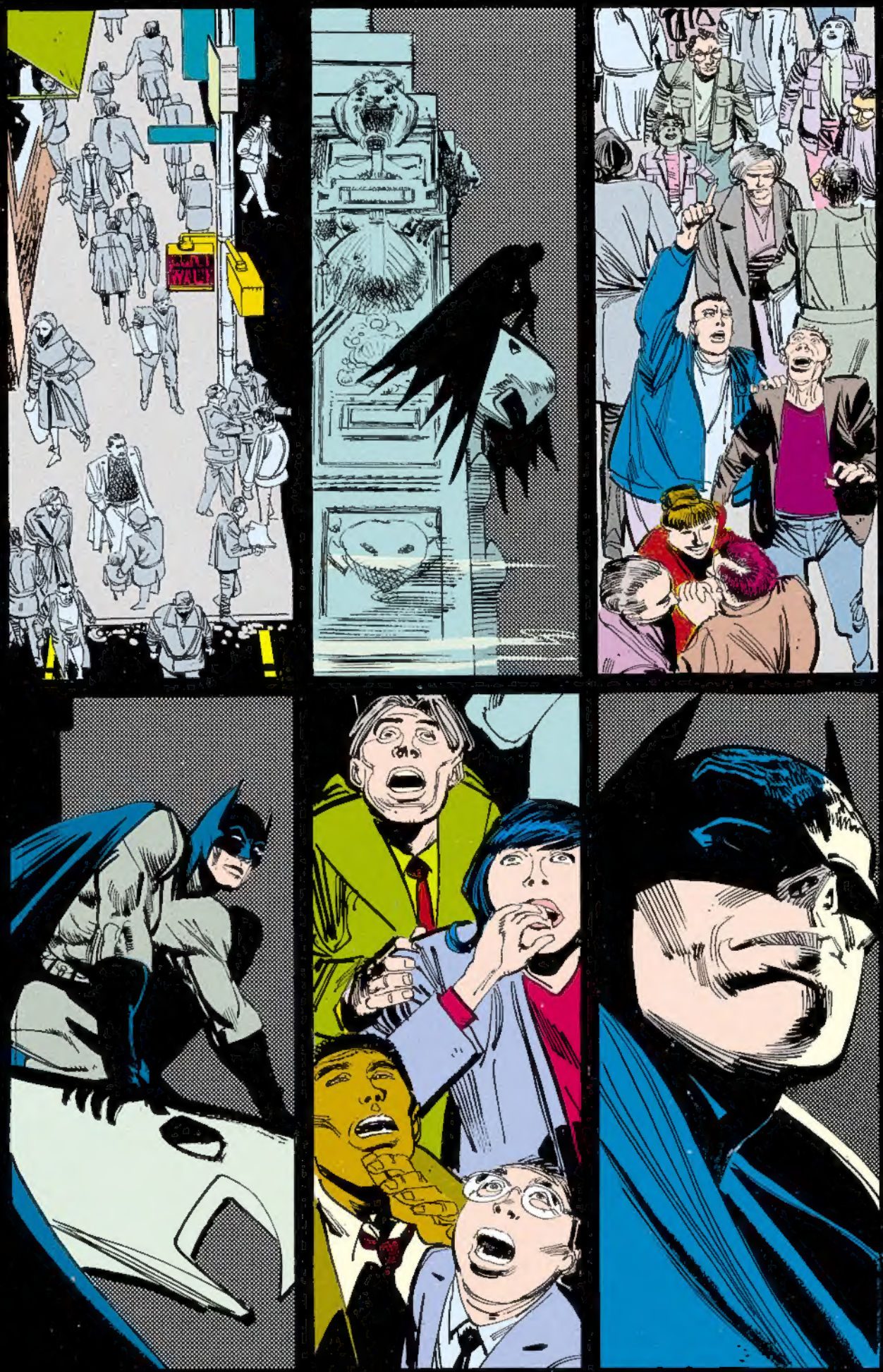
HERE, KITTY.
HERE, KITTY KITTY.
NEW IN TOWN, HUH? RUNAWAY MAYBE?
KITTY KITTY.
COME OVER HERE. COME ON.
LEMME SEE YOUR...
...AH... IT'S OKAY, NEVERMIND. NO PROBLEM.
OKAY?
NO PROBLEM


LOOK, TAKE IT! THERE'S THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS HERE.
I'VE GOT MORE. IT'S ALL YOURS.
...JUST DON'T..
MONEY?
WE DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY.
WE JUST WANT TO CUT YOU INTO LITTLE BITS.
GOBBETS.
THAT'S IT.
GOBBETS...
AND THEN WE MAIL THEM TO YOUR WIFE, AND THEN WE PAY HER A VISIT.
GOBBETS.
THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SHADEY?
SHADEY?
SOME JOKE, SHADEY.
WHAT'S THE...
GOTHAM CITY IS HELL
SHADEY? THAT YOU?
WE ARE ALL IN HELL.

AND I AM THE KING OF HELL!
NO.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
...DON'T...
DON'T HURT ME.
PLEASE. I HAVE MONEY.
DON'T HURT ME.
DON'T

... SOMETHING FOR YOU, MR. GRAZIANO, SIR COMPLIMENTS OF THE HOUSE.
I THINK
Qualcun Batte!
Apri!
CHOCOLATES! AHH. SOMEONE UP THERE LIKES ME. LET ME TELL YOU, I'D DIE FOR CHOCOLATES!
"HE WHO DINES ON HEAVENLY FOOD HAS NO NEED FOR THE FOOD OF MORTAL"
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IT'S POETRY, FOR GOD'S SAKE. DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF ROMANCE?
I ADORE CHOCOLATES..
Don Giovanni!
FOR YOU, HONEY, ANYTHING.
A cenar teco m' invitasti e son venuto!
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND COUNT THE CALORIES...

...FIRST I GET SOME STUPID CARD IN THE MAIL, THEN YOU CALL ME. WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, OTTAVIO? I GOT A BUSINESS TO RUN.
FACTS AND FIGURES, MORGENSTERN: O'ROURKE'S DEAD, THE KANE BROTHERS ARE DEAD AND SOMEONE JUST BLEW UP LEO GRAZIANO AT THE OPERA HOUSE.
WHISPER'S BACK.
IS THIS SOME KIND OF A SICK JOKE?
WE'VE HAD PEACE IN GOTHAM FOR YEARS, OTTAVIO. EVERYONE TO HIS OWN TURF. IF YOU'RE TRYING TO START SOMETHING HERE...
WHISPER'S BACK AND WE NEED HELP.
A SPECIAL KIND OF HELP.
EITHER YOU EXPLAIN THIS TO ME--AND FAST--OR I'M CALLING A PSYCHIATRIST...
YEAH, YEAH. OKAY. BUT FIRST YOU GOT TO LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
OKAY BERNIE.
HIT IT.



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with FRANK QUITELY

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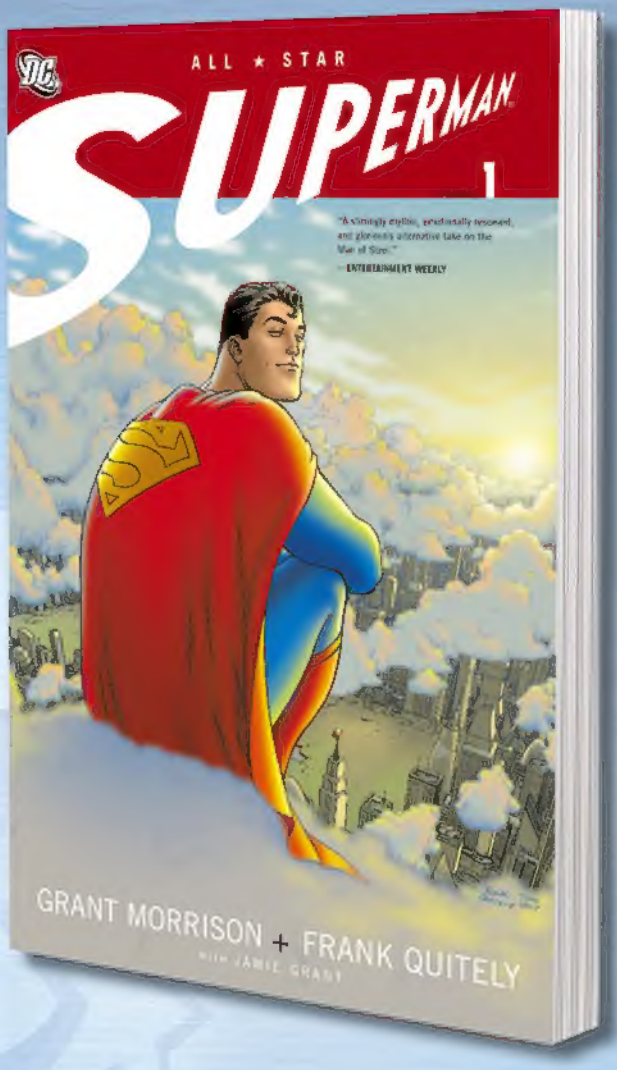

BATMAN: GOTHIC

with
KLAUS JANSON

BATMAN:
ARKHAM ASYLUM

with
DAVE McKEAN
Suggested for Mature Readers

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VOLS. 1-4

with
VARIOUS ARTISTS

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